

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2028

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR//ECDC//

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MASS, KU

SUBJECT: VISIT TO KUWAIT OF DEPCINCEUR

SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 14-16 GENERAL GEORGE EADE, DEPUTY USCINCEUR, VISITED KUWAIT DURING TOUR OF VARIOUS ARAB CAPITALS. BRIEF BUT HIGHLY USEFUL VISIT PERMITTED GENERAL EADE TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH KEY GOK DEFENSE OFFICIALS AND TO DISCUSS WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF MUTUAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO CURRENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE FMS PROGRAMS IN KUWAIT. GENERAL EADE'S VISIT WAS CLEARLY ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN US-KUWAITI RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL EADE BEGAN FORMAL PART OF VISIT WITH CORDIAL HALF-HOUR VISIT JANUARY 15 WITH MINDEF SHAIKH SA'AD. MINDEF DESCRIBED GOK MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IN GENERAL TERMS AND STATED APPRECIATION FOR US ASSISTANCE. AT SAME TIME HE REGISTERED COMPLAINT RE LATE DELIVERIES OF VEHICLES (419 M-151'S OVERDUE) AND REQUESTED ACCELERATION OF FMS DELIVERIES IN GENERAL.

2. FOLLOWING VISIT WITH MINDEF, GEN EADE MET WITH MAJGEN SHAIKH MUBARAK, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, KUWAIT ARMED FORCES AND WAS BRIEFED IN MORE DETAIL ON ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND
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GOK INTEREST IN COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY

AND ARMORED VEHICLES. SHAIKH MUBARAK REITERATED COMPLAINT RE OVERDUE JEEPS AND FAILURE USG PROVIDE DELIVERY SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN OTHER FMS AUTOMOTIVE CASES. GEN EADE ASSURED SHAIKH MUBARAK THAT A SCHEDULE WOULD BE PROVIDED ASAP.

3. FOLLOWING GENERAL DISCUSSIONS SHAIKH MUBARAK BRIEFED PARTY IN DETAIL ON BORDER SITUATION WITH IRAQ, INCLUDING PLOT OF IRAQI MILITARY CONSTP CTION 2-3 KM SOUTH OF NOMINAL BORDER.

4. FOLLOWING BRIEFING, GEN EADE AND PARTY WERE PROVIDED HELICOPTER TOUR OF KUWAIT, INCLUDING BORDER AREA.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY, SHAIKH MUBARAK HOSTED PARTY AT TEA. GEN EADE HAD LIVELY DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY ON KUWAIT DESALINIZATION PLANTS.

6. AT DINNER/RECEPTION EVENING JAN 15 AT RESIDENCE, SHAIKH MUBARAK AND GEN EADE HAD LONG AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGE OF VIEW ON MILITARY MATTERS WHICH ENDED WITH SHAIKH MUBARAK'S COMMENT THAT HE HOPE SEE GENERAL AGAIN SOON "IN UNIFORM".

7. DURING COURSE VISIT, EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH GENERAL EADE'S STAFF AND HAD HIGHLY USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING RESPECTIVE ROLES UNDER EXISTING AND POSSIBLE FUTURE FMS PROGRAMS IN KUWAIT.

8. GEN EADE TOOK TACK WITH KUWAITIS THAT HE INTERESTED IN KUWAITI WELFARE AND PREPARED ASSIST IN KUWAIT'S NATIONAL DEFENSE. KUWAITIS RESPONDED VERY WELL TO THIS APPROACH. GEN EADE'S VISIT CLEARLY WAS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN US-KUWAITI RELATIONS. STOLTZFUS

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